



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/992,879	11/05/2001	Patricia M. Savu	56612US003	7640
32692	7590	07/14/2006	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427				NILAND, PATRICK DENNIS
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		1714		

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/992,879	SAVU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Patrick D. Niland	1714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,7,8 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Art Unit: 1714

1. The amendment of 4/21/06 has been entered. Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 5, 7-8, and 12 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the teachings of US Pat. No. 5744295 Pitt et al., US Pat. No. 5472455 Mehreteab et al., and US Pat. No. 6319428 Michot et al..

The anions and cations of the instant claims are known for use in surfactant and conductive compounds known in the art but the prior art does not teach the compounds of the instant claims in which these cations and anions are used in the same compound. By virtue of being conductive/ionic, these compounds will necessarily be antistatic for reasons clear to the ordinary skilled artisan. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use the instantly claimed combination of anions and cations in a single compound because such a combination would have been expected to give the benefits taught by Mehreteab, Pitt et al., and Michot et al. The resulting compound would have been expected to possess the electric properties of the instantly claimed imide, including the delocalized anionic load and its associated benefits, as taught by the abstract; column 2, lines 8-67, particularly 51-53; column 3, lines 1-15 and 50-61; column 8, lines 20-45, particularly 31-32; and the remainder of Michot et al., the properties of the instantly claimed ammonium cations, including the antistatic properties disclosed by Pitt, the surfactant properties of the obvious HLB containing

Art Unit: 1714

ammonium polyether, discussed at the abstract; column 1, lines 14-40; column 2, lines 13-67; column 3, lines 1-67; column 5, lines 33-51 which shows surfactants to be desirable in enhancing conductivity; and the remainder of Pitt et al., and the improved surfactant properties obtained in combining anionic and cationic surfactants. Due to their obvious HLBs, each of the instantly claimed anions and cations are surfactants.

The applicant's arguments are not persuasive because they amount to stating that because LiF is not a good antistat neither would it be expected that the instantly claimed compounds would be. First of all there is no probative evidence that when LiF is placed in a medium that dissociates the Li from the F that it is not a good antistat. Secondly, F- is not subject of the instant claims. Fluoride is known to behave differently than most anions due to its extreme electronegativity. Compare the dissociation constant of HF to that of HCl for example. It is not representative of other anions. The argument that because LiF is not a good antistat, one cannot predict that the instantly claimed combinations of anions and cations would function as an antistat is not persuasive for these reasons and because the argument does not address the prior art cited. This rejection is maintained.

4. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

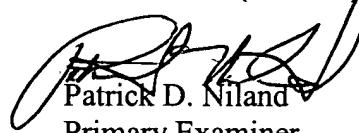
Art Unit: 1714

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick D. Niland whose telephone number is 571-272-1121. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 10 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Patrick D. Niland
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714